



Elizabeth Gara
Executive Director
Connecticut Council of Small Towns
Before the
Labor and Employees Committee
January 31, 2013

Re: SB-387, An Act Concerning Minimum Fair Wage

The Connecticut Council of Small Towns (COST) respectfully raises the following concerns relative to SB-387, which significantly increases the minimum wage from \$8.25 per hour to \$9.75 per hour over a two year period and ties the wage rate to the consumer price index.

Increasing the minimum wage increases costs to municipalities that employ workers for seasonal, after-school and recreational programs. For some small towns, this could result in a significant increase in costs. If costs become prohibitive, many small towns may simply curtail or reduce program offerings. Others may have to increase the fees associated with participating in such programs, which may make it difficult for families to take participate. In addition, municipalities may be reluctant to hire interns and other entry level workers due to increased wage costs.

Certainly, the impact to municipalities will vary depending on the number of minimum wage workers they employ and the number of hours they work. COST urges lawmakers to be mindful of the impact on municipal programs as they deliberate this proposal.

Thank you for the opportunity to comment.